



THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

PROBLEMS OF BLOOD PRESSURE IN CHILDHOOD—Arthur J. Moss, M.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics (Cardiology), Department of Pediatrics, and Forrest H. Adams, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics and Head Division of Cardiology, Department of Pediatrics, both at the University of California School of Medicine, Los Angeles. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, 301-327 East Lawrence Avenue, Springfield, Illinois, 1962, 106 pages, \$5.50.

This small volume presents much useful information which is not elsewhere easily available in such succinct form. Both methodology and interpretation receive excellent discussion. The extensive tables contain valuable standards for all ages of childhood and for variations in health and disease and in the interpretation of these variations. The format is clear and concise. This volume is a valuable reference which should be available in every library devoted to pediatrics.

EDWARD B. SHAW, M.D.

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THE POSTTHROMBOPHLEBITIC SYNDROME—Roy J. Popkin, M.D., F.A.C.A., Attending in Medicine, Cedars of Lebanon Hospital; Chief (Emeritus), Peripheral Vascular Disease Clinic, Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, Los Angeles, Calif. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, 301-327 East Lawrence Avenue, Springfield, Ill., 1962, 221 pages, \$8.50.

This monograph by Dr. Roy J. Popkin on the postthrombophlebitic syndrome deals with all aspects of this disease entity, including diagnosis, acute and long term management, complications and sequelae. It covers the industrial, economic and social aspects of the disease. After a brief historical introduction, the anatomy and physiology of the lower extremities are carefully considered. The nature of thrombosis, the effects of stasis and sludging of the blood, and the pathogenesis of the postthrombophlebitic syndrome are well summarized. The place of phlebography in the diagnosis of the disease is emphasized. The conservative management is well covered, including discussions on elastic bandages, exercise, medications, treatment of local ulcers, physiotherapy, the use of anticoagulant and fibrinolytic agents. Unfortunately, the section on surgical management of the disorder is sparsely documented, and one could find little to recommend in the section on surgical treatment of this disorder. Actually, a major arm of therapy in the postthrombophlebitic syndrome centers around the surgical aspects of the disease, and for one interested in therapy the book is inadequate. There is considerably less information in it, for example, than in one of the standard textbooks on varicose veins, such as the recent excellent book by Dodd and Cockett. The reviewer would feel that this book is a worthwhile contribution to the understanding of the postthrombophlebitic syndrome, but would feel that there is hardly sufficient new information in it to warrant use of the book other than for a quick review. It cannot be recommended for general purchase for either the internists' or surgeons' library. It is suitable for a general medical library in a hospital or university environment.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF DISEASE (formerly "An Introduction to Medical Science")—Fifth Edition, Thoroughly Revised, 174 Illustrations and 4 Colored Plates—William Boyd, M.D., Dipl. Psychiat., M.R.C.P. (Edin.), Hon. F.R.C.P. (Edin.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Can.), F.R.S. (Can.), LL.D. (Sask.), (Queen's), D.Sc. (Man.), M.D. (Hon.) (Oslo), Professor Emeritus of Pathology, The University of Toronto; Visiting Professor of Pathology, The University of Alabama; Formerly Professor of Pathology, The University of Manitoba and the University of British Columbia. Lea & Febiger, 600 Washington Square, Philadelphia 6, Pa., 1962, 478 pages, \$7.50.

This is a masterful book intended for those beginning or considering the study of medicine, medical technology, and other paramedical disciplines. It is the fifth edition of a book formerly entitled, *An Introduction to Medical Science*, but the new edition has many rewritten chapters. Among those are: "Derangements of Body Fluids," "Fungus Infection," "Viruses and Rickettsia," "Ionizing Radiation," "Hereditary Diseases," "Immunity and Hypersensitivity," and "Care of the Patient." All of the chapters have been rewritten and revised and, as the author is justly famous, place an emphasis on the relationship of symptoms to lesions. The present book is not only a general introduction to the study of disease, but presents an overview of the subject, so that one can grasp the present status of the total subject, even though the survey must necessarily be brief and undetailed. Actually it is far more difficult to present an overview of the principles of disease rather than to present details of the individual organs and systems and their diseases, and the author succeeds admirably in presenting this "airplane view of the subject." As an aside, the author gives a list of classical prefixes and suffixes which are helpful in understanding the medical terms. In addition, he gives the classic derivation of many words, also of great interest and help to the newcomer to the study of disease.

The organization of the book consists of fourteen introductory chapters on some general principles including an excellent account of the healthy cell and of the importance of the cell membrane, the nucleus, chromosomes, the mitochondria, nucleic acids, etc. There are then fifteen chapters on the specific organs and their diseases, which combine a concise description of the disease as well as a discussion of normal anatomy and physiology. As might be expected in a book of this sort, there is no discussion of moment regarding treatment. One hundred and seventy-four figures illustrate the text and by and large, these are clear and informative. The index is complete, but there is no bibliography.

In general, the book is an excellent contribution to the need of the intelligent layman and paramedical individual for a comprehensive general account of the study of disease and should reach a broad audience. The text is clear, interestingly written and can be very highly recommended.

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